



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/751,526	12/29/2000	Nandu J. Marketkar	42390P10081	2518
8791 7590 10/03/2003				
BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN 12400 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD, SEVENTH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90025				
EXAMINER ALCALA, JOSE II				
ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER				
2827				

DATE MAILED: 10/03/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/751,526

Applicant(s)

MARKETKAR ET AL.

Examiner

José H Alcalá

Art Unit

2827

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 May 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 and 25-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8-10 and 14-16 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 11-13, 27-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group 1, Species 2 in Paper No. 10 is acknowledged.

Regarding applicant's argument that Species 1 and Species 2 are both part of the same species, the examiner agrees, and the claims readable (1-7,11-13,25-30) on that species are examined. Examiner agrees with applicant in saying that claims 1 and 11 are generic to all the species.

2. Claims 8-10,14-24, are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention or species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in Paper No. 10.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-7,11-13,25-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The following claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the

necessary structural connections. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted structural cooperative relationships for the specific claims are as follows:

Regarding claim 1, it is unclear if the socket is located on the second device, the carrier, or on another element of the invention. It is further unclear if the: "one or more conductive areas", recited in lines 4-5, are part of the socket, or the second device. In addition, it is further unclear what are the elements forming the "electromagnetic coupler", and if it is a separate element from the: "coupler region".

Regarding Claim 3, it is unclear where exactly is the opening located, with relation to the rest of the elements of the device, such as the socket, the coupler region.

Claim 6 recites the limitation "the connector" in line 2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. In addition, it is not clear what is the position or relation of this element, with the rest of the elements of the claim.

Claim 7 recites the limitation "the connector" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. In addition, it is not clear what is the position or relation of this element, with the rest of the elements of the claim.

Claim 11, is not clear regarding what is the position of the connector, with respect to the guide rails or to the coupler region. Furthermore, it is not clear if the carrier is part of the connector or of the first device.

Claim 25 is unclear, regarding which elements compose the electromagnetic coupler. It is further unclear, where is the socket located, and what are the exact positions of the elements of the device with regards to one another.

Claim 28 is unclear, regarding, where is the socket located, and what are the exact positions of the elements of the device with regards to one another.

Claim 30, is further unclear about how is the post located with respect to the other elements of the device.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brodsky et al. (US Patent No. 5,197,888). As best understood by the examiner:

Regarding Claim 1 Brodsky teaches an apparatus comprising: a first device comprising a carrier (reference number 13) having one or more conductive areas (reference number 15) to form a portion of an electromagnetic coupler, and a socket (reference number 11) to mount the first device relative to a second device having one or more conductive areas (reference number 15') to form the electromagnetic coupler, the socket defining a coupler region (reference number 17) in which the carrier is inserted to align the carrier relative to the second device.

Regarding Claim 2, Brodsky teaches that the socket defines one or more guide rails adjacent to the coupler region (references number LA2).

Regarding Claim 3, Brodsky teaches that the first device comprises a post (reference number 31) to insert in an opening (reference number LA1) in the second device.

Regarding Claim 4, Brodsky teaches that the carrier comprises a dielectric layer (column 3, line 67) to form a portion of the electromagnetic coupler.

Regarding Claim 5, Brodsky teaches that the carrier is a flex circuit (column 3, line 61).

Regarding Claim 6, Brodsky teaches that the first device comprises a circuit board (reference number 21) and wherein the connector comprises an edge connector (reference number 23) to receive an edge of the circuit board of the first device (See Figure 2).

Regarding Claim 7, Brodsky teaches that the connector comprises one or more contact pins (reference number 31) to insert in the second device.

Regarding Claim 11, Brodsky teaches an apparatus comprising: a base (reference number 11) defining one or more guide rails (reference numbers LA2) adjacent to a coupler region (reference number 17) and comprising a connector, the connector to mount a first device comprising a carrier (reference number 13) having one or more conductive areas (reference number 15) relative to a second device (reference number 39) having one or more conductive areas (reference number 15') to form an electromagnetic coupler, the connector to mount the first device such that the carrier is inserted in the coupler region to align the carrier relative to the second device (See Figures 2 and 3).

Regarding Claim 12, Brodsky teaches that the connector comprises an edge connector (reference number 23) to receive an edge of a circuit board of the first device (See figure 2).

Regarding Claim 13, Brodsky teaches that the connector comprises one or more contact pins (reference number 31) to insert in the second device.

Regarding Claim 25, Brodsky teaches an apparatus comprising: a first device (reference number 39) having one or more conductive areas (reference number 15') to form a portion of an electromagnetic coupler; and a socket (reference number 43) to mount a second device relative to the first device to form the electromagnetic coupler, the socket defining a coupler region (reference number 17) in which a carrier (reference number 13) of the second device is inserted to align the carrier relative to the first device (See Figure 2).

Regarding Claim 26, Brodsky teaches that the first device comprises a dielectric (column 6, lines 7-8) to form a portion of the electromagnetic coupler.

Regarding Claim 27, Brodsky teaches that socket defines one or more guide rails (Reference number LA2) adjacent to the coupler region.

Regarding Claim 28, Brodsky teaches an apparatus comprising: a first device comprising a carrier (reference number 13) having one or more conductive areas (reference number 15) to form a portion of an electromagnetic coupler; a second device having one or more conductive areas (reference number 15') to form a portion of the electromagnetic coupler; and a socket (reference number 43) to mount the first device relative to the second device to form the electromagnetic coupler, the socket

defining a coupler region (reference number 17) in which the carrier is inserted to align the carrier relative to the second device (See Figures 2 and 3).

Regarding Claim 29, Brodsky teaches that the socket defines one or more guide rails (reference numbers LR2) adjacent to the coupler region.

Regarding Claim 30, Brodsky teaches that the first device comprises a post (reference number 31) to insert in an opening (reference number LA1) in the second device.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following references teach some of the elements of the instant claimed invention: Marketkar et al. (US Patent No. 6,498,305), Casciotti et al. (US Patent No. 5,171,154), Wong (US Patent No. 5,432,486), Hillis et al. (US Patent No. 5,317,481), Bailis et al. (US Patent No. 6,373,712), Renn et al. (US Patent No. 5,308,249) and Mills et al. (US Patent No. 5,781,414).

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to José H Alcalá whose telephone number is (703) 305-9844. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday.

8. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kamand Cuneo can be reached on (703) 308-1233. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)

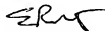
Application/Control Number: 09/751,526
Art Unit: 2827

Page 8

305-3431 for regular communications and (703) 305-3431 for After Final communications.

9. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

JHA
September 21, 2003



EVAN PERT
PRIMARY EXAMINER